

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /088 W  
----- 092205 /50 45

R 221135Z DEC 76  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5883  
INFO AMEMASSY NICOSIA  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, TU  
SUBJECT: TURK-IS AND POLITICAL PARTIES

SUMMARY: THE COMBINED EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT BOARDS  
OF TURK-IS (CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS) HELD  
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 13-17 IN CYPRUS WITH ITS  
MEMBER UNION TURK-SEN (TURKISH CYPRIOT UNIONS) AS NOMINAL  
HOST. AGENDA BORE ONLY THE SINGLE ITEM, THE FUTURE ROLE OF  
TURK-IS IN POLITICS. THIS TOPIC HAS BEEN CONSTANT PREOCCU-  
PATION OF TURK-IS LEADERSHIP IN RECENT MONTHS. AT CYPRUS  
MEETING THEY DECIDED AGAINST ESTABLISHING OWN SEPARATE PARTY  
AND IN FAVOR OF SUPPORTING A PARTY  
(UNSPECIFIED) WITH SAME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AS TURK-IS.  
ELEVEN MEMBER COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY AND REPORT WITHIN  
TWO MONTHS ON MANNER, CONDITIONS AND PRINCIPLES TURK-IS  
SHOULD ADOPT IN SUPPORTING POLITICAL PARTY. END SUMMARY.

2. AT ITS APRIL 1976 CONVENTION IN ANKARA TURK-IS MUST  
MAINTAIN ITS INDEPENDENCE TOWARD POLITICAL PARTIES AND  
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MAY NOT ESTABLISH ORGANIC LINKS WITH ANY PARTY, IT MAY SUPPORT  
ONE OR MORE PARTIES HAVING THE SAME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AS  
TURK-IS OR IT MAY FORM A PARTY OF SUCH NATURE. FURTHER DE-  
CISION MAKING ON THE MATTER WAS LEFT TO THE  
COMBINED EXECUTIVE-MANAGEMENT BOARDS IN WHICH A TWO-THIRDS  
MAJORITY WOULD BE REQUIRED. SHOULD THIS PROCEDURE FAIL TO

PRODUCE A DECISION, THEN TURK-IS WOULD HOLD SPECIAL CONVENTION WITHIN A WEEK TO CALL FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

3. BOARD MEETINGS SINCE APRIL HAVE ALL BEEN INCONCLUSIVE, WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GROUP OF UNIONS BEING UNABLE TO OBTAIN TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF THEIR DESIRE TO SUPPORT THE RPP. TO AVOID SPLIT IN THE ORGANIZATION TURK-IS PRESIDENT HALIL TUNC HAS SUCCESSFULLY URGED THAT DISCUSSION AND DEBATE BE CONTINUED WITH HOPE CONSENSUS WOULD EVENTUALLY EMERGE.

4. STUDY WAS MADE DURING SUMMER BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF TURK-IS SECGEN SADIK SIDE OF AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF ALL PARTIES AND THEIR VOTING RECORDS ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO LABOR. THIS SHOWED RPP AS BEST FRIEND OF LABOR, WITH JP NOT FAR BEHIND.

5. LEADING UP TO CYPRUS MEETING TUNC IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENT, HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT STUMBLING BLOCK IMPEDING A TURK-IS/RPP JOINT ACTION PROGRAM IS RPP'S RELATIONSHIP WITH DISK (CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH REVOLUTIONARY/REFORMIST TRADE UNIONS) WHICH HAS BEEN ENCOURAGED BY SEVERAL SENIOR RPP DEPUTIES. TUNC LEANS TOWARD THE RPP, BUT HE WANTS THAT PARTY TO MAKE A CLEAR CHOICE BETWEEN (A) DISK'S PROGRAM WHICH DEMANDS CLASS STRUGGLE AND SHARPENED CONFLICT BETWEEN LABORING CLASS AND BOURGEOISIE AND (B) TURK-IS'S PROGRAM WHICH SEEKS RECONCILIATION AND INTEGRATION OF LABOR AND MANAGEMENT INTERESTS THROUGH COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND PERPETUATION OF LIBERAL DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY.  
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6. IN ANNOUNCING RESULTS OF CYPRUS MEETING TUNC REMARKED THAT UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS TURK-IS WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO FORM A POLITICAL PARTY, BUT WOULD SUPPORT A PARTY WITH SAME AIMS AND OBJECTIVES AS TURK-IS. WHEN SKED IF THE RPP WOULD BE THAT PARTY, TUNC DECLINED TO ANSWER. "THEIR AIMS AND THE AIMS AND PROGRAMS OF OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES ARE SELF EVIDENT," HE SAID.

7. NEXT STEP IS EXPECTED TO BE A MIXTURE OF (A) ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE TURK-IS AND RPP TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN THEIR POSITIONS SO THAT TWO ORGANIZATIONS CAN COME CLOSER AND (B) ATTACKS ON TUNC BY MORE MILITANT SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. THE FORER ARE UNLIKELY TO PROVE SUCCESSFUL, WHILE THE LATTER MAY LEAD TO A CALL FOR AN EXTRAORDINARY CONVENTION OF TURK-IS IN A FEW MONTHS TIME. THUS, THE CYPRUS MEETING SETTLED NOTHING, AND THE TALK CONTINUES THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNIONS MAY LEAVE TURK-IS AND FORM A

SEPARATE CONFEDERATION OF THEIR OWN BEFORE THE NEXT GENERAL  
ELECTIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, MEETING AGENDA, LABOR UNIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ANKARA09687  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760469-0841  
**From:** ANKARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761218/aaaaappb.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TURK-IS AND POLITICAL PARTIES SUMMARY: THE COMBINED EXECUTIVE AND MANAGEMENT BOARDS OF TURK-IS (CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS)  
**TAGS:** ELAB, TU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006